

# Class Syllabus

## Rural Alaska History and Cultures

Instructors: Ben Boyd and Tony Nakazawa  
3.5 CEU credit 30 hour course

Prerequisites: None

Instructor Contact Information 24/7: (See attached vita/resume)

- Ben Boyd	907-479-2819	HYPERLINK
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- Tony Nakazawa	907-460-0825	<a href="mailto:atnakazawa@alaska.edu">atnakazawa@alaska.edu</a>

Course Instruction materials: Various Videos and Hands on materials to be provided

Course Location: Orientation and Beginning Class Location at Chandalar Ranch Lodge and various on-site locations in Fairbanks/Interior and/or South-central Alaska areas.

### **Alaskan Cultures:**

A Study Group that experiences past and present Cultures of Alaska both Native and Non-Native Alaskans, primarily focused on Rural Alaska.

### **Learning Expectations:**

No previous knowledge of Alaska Cultures is required. The purpose of this class is to give students an overview of the diversity of cultures in Alaska.

### **List of Class Competencies/Learning Objectives:**

1. To gain knowledge about the extreme climate and environment of Alaska.
2. To gain knowledge of the way of life of present day mainstream Alaskans in Rural Alaska.
3. To gain knowledge of the Natural History of Alaska.
4. To gain knowledge of Alaska's Gold Rush/Pioneer History Era.
5. To gain knowledge of Alaska Native Cultures.
6. To be able to do a Native Dance.
7. To be able to do a Native Project.
8. To be able to Ice Fish (contingent upon season – winter).
9. To be able to do Dog Mushing.
10. To gain knowledge of Alaska's Wildlife.
11. To gain knowledge of Alaska's subsistence Hunting and Fishing practices.
12. To gain knowledge of and experience Alaskan Foods, both Native and Non-Native.
13. To gain knowledge of and experience about Alaska's Northern Lights.
14. To gain introductory knowledge of Alaska contemporary society, economy, and public policies (such landmark legislation as Alaska Statehood, AK Native Claims Settlement Act, others)

**Instructional methods:** This class will be in a workshop format incorporating instructor(s) and other Face to face instruction beginning at Chandalar Ranch Lodge. Hands on activities at selected locations in the Fairbanks and/or South-Central Alaska area.

**Grading System:** 3.5 CEUs/ Pass-No Pass based on class participation.

### **Class Outline**

**Meeting Time:** Instruction will begin at 1:00 pm on the second day of arrival and at 1:00 pm on each following day.

**Class Topics:**

Day 1: (total of 5 hours)

Visit to Native Culture Center that will include: Lunch of Native Foods, Native Guided Tour of exhibits, and working on a Native Arts and Crafts project.

Day2: (total of 5 hours)

Chena Hot Springs Tour that will include: Lunch at a remote Alaskan Style Lodge, tour of Ice Museum, tour of Geothermal operation, history of CHS, soak in the Hot Springs, and an Alaskan Fish Dinner.

Day3: (total of 5 hours)\*

Tour of Museum of the North at University of Alaska Fairbanks and a tour of the campus. Videos and presentation by Instructor about making Snow Shoes and Moose Skin Drums.

Day:4 (total of 5 hours)

Chandalar Outfitter's Ice Fishing Tour that will include: A 50 mile scenic ride to a large lake with a heated ice fishing house, sitting on the frozen lake. Equipment and warm clothing provided. Clients will learn how to Ice Fish. Concluded with a Native prepared Native style dinner at Chandlar Ranch.

Day5: (total of 5 hours)\*

Dog Sled Ride and learning about Alaskan Dog Mushing. Video and Presentation about Alaska Dog Sled Races by Instructor.

Day6: (total of 5 hours)\*

A tour at Walk with Reindeer that includes: hands on experience with Reindeer. Historical Video, Kantishna Hills Pioneers and Presentation by Instructor about Alaska's Gold Rush Era. Native Culture Show by Instructor that includes videos he produced about Native Alaska Cultures and a live Native Hoop Dance for which the Instructor is the Oldest Native Hoop Dancer in the World.

**Order of Instruction Days may vary by weather and logistic.** Student's lodging will be at Chandlar Ranch Lodge 25 miles from Fairbanks. Evenings will be spent at Chandalar Ranch, one of the best Aurora viewing locations.

**Course Policies:** No consuming alcohol beverages or drugs while in Alaska. Students are to enjoy Alaska and Alaskan Cultures while learning about them.

*\* Note: Initially class offerings will include just the Interior Alaska segment, but late summer tour offerings will have the alternative for days 4, 5 and 6 to include **driving to South-central Alaska**, stopping at Denali National Park, touring the Alaska Native Cultural Heritage Center and the Anchorage Museum as well as visits to the UAF Palmer Experimental Farm in the Matsu Valley.*